

## Delta Township Awards Reception a Huge Success

The first annual Delta Township Community Awards Reception was held on Wednesday, April 26 at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel in Delta Township. This reception, sponsored by the Delta Township Board, recognized and celebrated the accomplishments of Delta Township citizens and businesses by awarding the Citizen of the Year, Community Enhancement, and Business Partnership Awards. It also welcomed home Delta Township native Muhsin Muhammad. Muhammad, a National Football League wide receiver and two-time Pro Bowler, is an alumnus of Waverly High School and of Michigan State University.

The tastefully-appointed reception was attended by more than 200 guests that included state and local government leaders. Sheri Jones, WLNS TV-6 news anchor, served as mistress of ceremonies at the awards reception.

Nominees for the 2006 Community Enhancement Award were Darrell and Julia Haan, John and Irene Brockhaus, and Schaefer & Ward, LLC. The 2006 Community Enhancement Award went to Schaefer and Ward, LLC for improvements to property at 4911 West St. Joseph Street. At this site, the business owners removed a deteriorated house and constructed a new office building that improves community aesthetics and safety, and demonstrates excellence in community stewardship.

Nominees for the 2006 Citizen of the Year Award were the Honorable Judge Thomas Eveland, Patrick Harrington, Carl Haussman, Howard Hunter, John Keel, Michael Moore, Alvin Whitfield, and Ian Wilhite. The 2006 Citizen of the Year Award went to John H. Keel for extraordinary efforts in promoting Delta Township and enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. Keel is a long-term ambassador for the township, is the founder of the phenomenal Delta Township fireworks display, promoted establishment of Delta's Arts and Enrichment Program, and served 27 years as chairperson of the Delta Parks, Recreation, and Cemeteries Commission.

Nominees for the 2006 Business Partnership Award were Kids Hope Mentors, Lansing Delta Lions Club, Tomie Raines/GMAC Real Estate, and Tony M's. The 2006 Business Partnership Award went to the Lansing Delta Lions Club for its outstanding, consistent, long-term partnership with Delta Township local government in improving the quality of life for Delta residents. This club contributes extraordinarily in volunteer hours, monetary gifts, and member talents to Township programs, Township safety, recreational and senior program needs, and to special needs appliances and food gift baskets for needy individuals and families.

The 2006 Delta Community Awards Committee was formed in March 2004. It was organized and led by Delta Township Trustee Dorothy E. Maxwell, and included the following members: Phyllis Blackburn, Susan Bolhouse, Cindy Bowen, David Chapman, Mary Clark, Calvin Jones, Cordree McConnell, Narine Manukova, and Toni Raleigh. Linda Wells, staffer from the Township Manager's Office, supported the work of the committee.